

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 /092 W

----- 128063

P R 040739Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8686

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, PFOR, PORG, YE

SUBJECT: YAR/ROK RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 181500, (B) SANA 2520, (C) JIDDA 5282,
(D) STATE 192274

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF CONVEYED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
UN DIVISION CHIEF SUBSTANCE OF SUGGESTION BY AMEMBASSY SANA THAT
NOW WAS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ROKG TO BUTTRESS ITS POSITION IN
YAR AND THAT IT WAS AMEMBASSY SANA'S UNDERSTANDING THAT ROKG
WAS WILLING TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SANA. MOFA DIVISION CHIEF
REPLIED THAT ROKG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF IT WERE BEING INVITED
TO OPEN EMBASSY WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, A STUMBLING CLOCK IN
PAST. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF AUGUST 3 CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF SUGGESTION OFFERED BY
AMEMBASSY SANA (REF B) THAT CHANGE IN PRESIDENT HANDI'S TRAVEL
PLANS AND REAFFIRMATION OF YAR DETERMINATION TO SHIFT ITS VOTE
IN UN THIS FALL, PRESENT GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ROKG TO BUTTRESS
ITS POSITION IN YAR. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS AMEMBASSY SANA'S
UNDERSTANDING THAT ROKG WAS WILLING TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SANA.

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2. CHIEF OF MOFA'S UNITED NATIONS DIVISION II, YI CHONG-PIN, TOLD EMBOFF THAT ROKG WAS READY TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SANA BUT WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS HAD BEEN STICKING POINT, INDICATING IT WAS ROKG'S IMPRESSION THAT OPENING OF ROK EMBASSY IN SANA HAS BEEN PREDICATED UPON PURCHASE OF ROCKSALT FROM YAR WHICH ROKG FINDS IMPRACTICAL. ALTHOUGH ROKG BELIEVES PRICE OF YEMINI ROCKSALT APPEARS REASONABLE AND IN LINE WITH PRICES PAID FOR SAME COMMODITY IN AUSTRALIA AND INDIA, TRANSPORTATION COSTS MAKE IT UNATTRACTIVE FOR KOREAN IMPORTERS.

3. IN LIEU OF SALT PURCHASE, YI INDICATED THAT ROK MADE OFFER LAST YEAR TO TRAIN YEMENI IN AGRICULTURAL OR FISHERIES PROGRAM BUT YAR DECLINED ON GROUNDS GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY ENGLISH SPEAKING CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM AND YEMINI COULD GET SAME TRAINING ELSEWHERE.

4. YI TOLD EMBOFF THAT MOFA WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ROKG INDEED WAS BEING INVITED TO OPEN EMBASSY WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS AS COULD BE INFERRED FROM REFTEL.

5. IT APPEARS THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE FOLLOW-UP BY ROKG WITH YAR IN COMING TO AGREEMENT ON SOME APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTHOUGH YI CLAIMS THAT TWO ROKG "MISSIONS" HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL OVER PAST YEAR. ROKG SEEMS RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO ANY PRECONDITIONS LEADING TO OPENING OF MISSION IN SANA BUT APPEARS INTERESTED IN DELIVERING SOME KIND OF MODEST AID IF ONLY AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE CAN BE FOUND AND IF TWO ARE NOT TOO CLOSELY TIED TOGETHER.

6. OUR VIEW HERE IS ESSENTIALLY TO LET ROKS AND YEMENIS WORK OUT THESE QUESTIONS BETWEEN SELVES AND THAT POSSIBLE VISIT TO SANA BY ROKG AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA (REF C) WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS. IN MEANTIME, IF AMEMBASSY SANA BELIEVES THERE IS CHANCE OF OPENING ROK MISSION "WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS", AS EXPRESSED TO US BY MOFA CHIEF, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING AND WILL PASS WORD TO MOFA.
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